**Chinese citizen working for Apple charged with theft or attempted theft of high value Apple self-driving technology.**

**Weibao Wang, a Chinese citizen employed with Apple Computer, fled back to Cbina as soon as federal authorities searched his home. Authorities discovered that Wang’s computer stored Apple proprietary and confidential data on current and developing self-driving technology. This is not a national security issue, but the commercial value of this technology is in billions of dollars. Apple does not appear to have security clearance system to identify their foreign national employees who should be denied access to their most sensitive technologies.**

**Self Driving technology will be of great value to many seniors who must continue to drive, and to the many seniors who will discontinue driving as their ability to drive safely becomes an issue. Some of us will not be able to pass driver’s tests and will be forced to stop driving.**

**In other technology theft news, the Justice and Commerce departments have been busy enforcing the restriction of exporting sensitive technologies, both military and civilian to Russia. The technologies range from battlefield equipment and advanced electronics used for quantum cryptography and nuclear-weapons testing, but also includes Boeing aircraft parts used in Russian commercial aircraft.**

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**Source:**

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**Ex-Apple Engineer Among U.S. Tech Theft Cases**

WASHINGTON—A former Apple engineer has been charged with trying to steal the company’s self-driving-car technology, U.S. authorities said, one of a series of actions aimed at dismantling what they say are illicit networks providing Russia and China with access to trade secrets and restricted items such as aircraft parts and battlefield equipment.

**Weibao Wang, 35 years old, a software engineer at Apple from 2016 to 2018**, was charged with six counts of theft or attempted theft of the company’s “entire autonomy source code,” tracking systems, architecture designs and descriptions of hardware behind the technology, the Justice Department said in an indictment Tuesday.

About a year into his employment at Apple, Mr. Wang began working for a U.S.-based subsidiary of a Chinese company that was also developing autonomous-driving technology and began taking “large amounts” of sensitive information related to Apple’s project, the indictment says. Investigators who searched his Mountain View, Calif., home found Apple’s proprietary and confidential materials on Mr. Wang’s computers and other devices.

Court records don’t list an attorney for Mr. Wang, who prosecutors said flew from San Francisco to China hours after the June 2018 search and remains there. An Apple spokesman declined to comment.

The charges against Mr. Wang were announced as part of a series of arrests and indictments secured by federal prosecutors in California, Arizona and New York. Officials said the actions stemmed from a task force convened in February between the Justice Department and the Commerce Department, which is focused on policing regulations restricting the export of sensitive technologies to foreign adversaries.

“Foreign nation-states are working hard to acquire our most sensitive technologies,” said Matthew Axelrod, assistant secretary for export enforcement at the Commerce Department. “We’re working even harder to stop them.”

In another action announced Tuesday, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn said French authorities had arrested Nikolaos “Nikos” Bogonikolos, a Greek national who operated companies in Greece and the Netherlands and allegedly **helped supply Russia with battlefield equipment and advanced electronics used for quantum cryptography and nuclear-weapons testing.** The U.S. will seek his extradition, he said.

The U.S. attorney in Arizona also announced the arrests of Oleg Patsulya and Vasilii Besedin, two Russian citizens who lived near Miami and who authorities said were involved in a scheme to circumvent U.S. export controls by **supplying aircraft parts to Russian airlines.**

Lawyers for Messrs. Patsulya and Besedin didn’t respond to requests to comment. Court records don’t list a lawyer for Mr. Bogonikolos.

In a complaint filed Friday, prosecutors said Messrs. Patsulya and **Besedin supplied a Boeing 737 carbon disc-brake system and other parts to at least three different Russian airlines.** Two of the airlines fell under export restrictions announced by the Commerce Department last year, they said. FBI agents last week conducted a raid of a condominium in the Trump Towers in Sunny Isles Beach, Fla., which was owned by a company controlled by the two men.

**The U.S. has said it is stepping up enforcement of the sanctions and exports controls on Russia since its invasion of Ukraine last year.**